(c) and (d) No such increase has been done in MTNL Mumbai.

(e) Revision has been necessitated to offset the loss to MTNL in order to comply to the interconnectivity regime.

Internet-Telephony for domestic and long distance calls

1731. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to allow Internet-telephony for domestic local and long-distance calls in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has submitted its recommendations for Unified Licence which *inter alia* include Internet-telephony for domestic and long distance calls. The recommendations are under consideration and no final decision has been taken so far.

Salient features of jobs for America Act

1732. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US introduced the jobs for America Act recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed Act; and

(c) in what manner it would help/affect the Indian IT professionals who wish to go to USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) Commission on America Jobs Act Bill was introduced in 109th Congress on 15th February 2005 and it was referred to the Committee on Education and the workforce.

(b) Bill provides that the Secretary of Commerce shall establish a commission to be known as the Commission on America Jobs. The Commission shall collect data on outsourcing by US companies and its subsidiaries, identify number of jobs outsourced, location to which the jobs were outsourced and dates that the jobs were outsourced. Commission is also required to conduct studies to find out the reasons for outsourcing and propose possible measures to prevent outsourcing by companies.

(c) The provisions of Bill would not have any direct effect on Indian IT professionals who wish to go to USA.

MoU between India and Italy

1733 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Italy have signed a set of 8 MoUs for co-operation in various areas of science and technology including early warning of disasters and land mapping for agriculture;

(b) if so, whether MoU envisages among other things, development of web-enabled technologies for small and medium scale enterprises, establishment of research hubs on bio-informatics neuro informatics and grid technologies and setting up of a joint laboratory on micro-electronic-mechanical systems; and

(c) if so, by what time these agreements are likely to be implemented and to what extent it would be beneficial for India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) An MoU between the Ministry of Science and Technology of India and Ministry of Education, Universities and Research of Italy and six technical MoUs between the centres of excellence on both sides were signed during the visit of Italian President in February 2005.

(b) These MoUs envisage research fellowships to Indian scientists in advance technology sectors such as Nanoscience, bio-informatics, neuro-informatics, Web and multimedia technologies, Grid technologies, Electronics, Aerospace engineering and Research on natural catastrophes.